SWAY BAR FOR FISHING TACKLE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a sway bar or elongate connection member between a fishing line and a fish hook which can be used in combination with a jig head and soft bait or lure to provide interchangeability between the above components which could not be achieved by conventional fishing tackle.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

Conventional fishing tackle utilises a jig head or jig which is a weighted fish hook integral with a body which is normally formed from lead or tungsten so as to give the body additional weight. Usually the metal forming the jig head is heated until a liquid and then poured into a mould lined with hooks. The metal then solidifies to form a weighted hook or jig head. The shape of the jig head may be round or tubular and also stand up heads are known having a flat bottom design that lie on the bottom when stationary positioning the hook at a 45° angle to vertical. The jig head may also have a shape resembling a football, cone or bullet or other shapes as is known in the art.

The jig heads can also be provided with a collar which is positioned directly after the jig head for holding baits made from plastics material. Barbed collars have one or two small points for holding plastic baits. Some advanced collar designs feature wire holders or screw locks to hold plastic bodies. A ball collar has a small nub to hold plastic bodies. .

However a major problem of conventional fishing tackle using a traditional jig head or weighted fish hook as described above is that once the hook is damaged the jig head is discarded and thus a new jig head is required and this may be expensive. It is also time consuming to reconnect the new jig head to a fishing line and to a lure or bait.

Reference to conventional jig heads or weighted fish hooks are described in Japanese Patent Publication 09-285245 which refers to a shank which is inserted into a bait or lure formed from soft plastics material, a

connecting part at one end of the shank for attachment to a fishing line and located in a head part of the lure and a connecting part at another end of the shank for attachment to a fishing hook and located in a body part of the lure. In this reference the fish hook was attached to the shank and the fishing line was also attached to the shank after the shank was inserted into the body of the lure. There was also provided a weight or sinker intermediate the fishing line and the connecting part for the fishing line.

However it was found that this conventional fishing tackle did not incorporate a jig head in the conventional sense as described above and thus could not achieve the advantages of conventional jig heads which allow the jig head to cut through the water quickly for fishing in fast currents and which can be bounced off the bottom of a lake or seabed or climb over rocks on the bottom. The use of a sinker remote from the hook also meant that the fishing tackle was unstable in use and complicated in attachment to the fishing line.

Reference may also be made to Japanese Patent Publication 2001-258426 which unlike the reference described above did incorporate a conventional jig head having baffle plates to provide a required buoyancy in water so that the jig head can reach a desired depth in the water. In this arrangement a fishing line is attached to one side of the jig head and a lure is located at an adjacent end of the jig head for attachment thereto by attachment hooks. There is also provided a fish hook attached to a length of cord which was also attached to the jig head.

One disadvantage of this reference was that there were a multiplicity of attachment locations (i.e. 4) for each of the various components of the fishing tackle making the entire assembly time consuming to connect and dismantle if a different fishing line or jig head was required. Thus interchangeability of the various components was complicated.

Reference may also be made to US Patent 2,989,817 which describes a fish hook having an eyelet which was attached to a specially designed attachment device having a pair of eye members which were built into an oval shaped sinker. Attached to the sinker was a spinner, beads and a

coupling to either one of the eye members. This was an unduly complicated fishing tackle only used for fly fishing and again was complicated in setting up or if it was required to interchange the components.

Reference also may be made to US Patent 5,649,384 which describes a weighted lead jig head having an integral fish hook to which was also attached a lure. The jig head also included an eyelet for attachment to a fishing line. The arrangement was designed to cause the hook to pivot below the shank of the hook to hook the fish in the lower jaw. The eyelet and fish hook were formed of loops or wire moulded in the lead head. Again this prior art reference could only be considered as being unnecessarily complicated in structure and expensive to replace if the jig head was damaged

US Patent 5,875,582 refers to a self propelled fishing lure having a water tight housing for propelling the lure through the water under its own power. Again this lure was unnecessarily complicated in structure and too expensive for general use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly it is an object of the invention to provide a sway bar for fishing tackle which is efficient in use and which may reduce at least one of the disadvantages of the prior art discussed above.

The invention in one aspect provides a sway bar which interconnects a fishing line and a fish hook, said sway bar having one end which is attachable to the fishing line in use and another end which is attachable to a fish hook in use, characterised in that said sway bar is insertable through a transverse passage of a jig head to which a soft bait or lure is attachable thereto, wherein said one end of the sway bar is attachable to the fishing line above the transverse passage in use and said another end is attachable to the fish hook below the transverse passage in use and said fish hook is engageable with said soft bait or lure in use.

The invention in another aspect refers to fishing tackle incorporating (i) a jig head in combination with a (ii) sway bar wherein said jig head includes a transverse passage oriented to a longitudinal axis of the jig head and said sway bar is located in said jig head so that in use one end of the

sway bar is attached to a fishing line above the transverse passage in use and another end of the sway bar is attached to a shank of the fish hook below said transverse passage in use, said fish hook adapted to be engaged to a soft bait or lure attachable to the jig head.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Reference may be made to a preferred embodiment of the invention as shown in the attached drawings wherein

FIG 1 is a view of the sway bar of the invention inserted through a transverse passage in a jig head having two arcuate or bent ends thereof extending above and below the transverse passage with one arcuate end attached to a fishing line and the other arcuate end attached to a fish hook inserted in soft bait;

FIG 2 is a view of a sway bar having a different shape to that shown in FIG 1 also inserted through the transverse passage in the jig head; and

FIG 3 is a view of a sway bar having a different shape to that shown in either FIG 1 or FIG 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In FIG 1 the sway bar 10 has opposed arcuate ends 11 and 12 and is formed from a length of wire having an outer starting point 13 and an inner starting point 14. There is also shown a fishing line 15 attached to arcuate end 11 and a fish hook 16 having a barb 17 and an eyelet 18 which is attached to arcuate end 12. The fish hook 16 is embedded in a fishing lure 19 which is formed from soft plastics material as is known in the art.

There is also provided a jig head 20 formed from solid material such as metal of substantially conical shape which has a transverse passage 21 which is aligned normal to a longitudinal axis of the jig head 20. It will be noted that each arcuate end extends above the respective ends of transverse passage 21. The jig head 20 is provided with an attachment part 22 having barbs 23.

In FIG 2 the sway bar 10A is again formed from a single length of wire which is angled or bent at 24 so as to provide an included angle of around 120° and which has an eyelet 25 at one end and eyelet 26 at the other end.

In use eyelet 25 is connected to fishing line 15 and eyelet 26 is connected to an eyelet 18 of fish hook 16 via a split ring 27. The fish hook 16 has a shank 28 and again as in the case of FIG 1 is embedded in a fishing lure 19.

In FIG 3 the sway bar 10B is a length of wire having eyelet 25A and eyelet 26A. Eyelet 25A is attached to fishing line 15 and eyelet 26A is attached to fish hook 16 as described in FIG 2. The FIG 3 embodiment shows that sway bar 10B is angled at 29 so as to provide an included angle of around 90°.

In FIG 1 the method of attachment of sway bar 10 to jig head 20 is to insert sway bar 10 into transverse passage 21 from the top or bottom of transverse passage 21. Subsequently fish hook 16 may be attached to arcuate end 12 as shown by a simple knot 29 or by other suitable means such as a clip (not shown) or split ring 27 shown in FIG 2. Thereafter fish hook 16 may be embedded in soft bait 19. It will be appreciated that soft bait 19 is attached to jig head 20 by being impaled or inserted over attachment part 22 with barbs 23 retaining soft bait 19 on attachment part 22. In another variation soft bait 19 may be attached to attachment part 22 after retention of fish hook 16.

In FIG 2 the method of attachment of sway bar 10A to jig head 20 is to attach fishing line 15 to eyelet 25 then insert sway bar 10A through transverse passage 21 from the top of passage 21 and subsequently attach fish hook 16 to eyelet 26 as shown. Soft bait 19 may be attached to attachment part 22 as described above in FIG 1.

In FIG 3 the method of attachment of sway bar 10B to jig head 20 is to insert sway bar 10B into transverse passage 21 from the bottom thereof and then attach fishing line 15 to eyelet 25A. Subsequently eyelet 26B may be attached to fish hook 16 by use of split ring 25 as described above in relation to the FIG 2 embodiment.

It will be appreciated from the foregoing that the sway bar of the invention can be formed from any suitable material, i.e. stainless steel, titanium or metal alloys. It also can be manufactured in a variety of shapes such as in the form of a clip having arcuate ends as shown in FIG 1 so as to

support longer soft bait 19 than was the case with the prior art or to give improved action in use having regard to the angled shape shown in FIG 2 or FIG 3 wherein the position of the jig head 20 is stabilised as it is pulled through the water by virtue of the fact that the hook 16 is embedded in the soft lure 19 and thus jig head 20 will have a lower centre of gravity than was the case with the prior art.

Another advantage of the sway bar of the invention is that the jig head 20 may be dynamically formed to produce various actions and hence the sway bar of the invention facilitates easy fish hook change while supporting the weight of a jig head and fish hook combination. In fact it will be appreciated from the drawings that the attachment points between the fishing line and the sway bar and the fish hook and the sway bar as well as the connection of soft lure 19 to jig head 20 are all interchangeable which is a major advance over the prior art.

This means that the sway bar or combination of sway bar and jig head of the invention can provide for various combinations of fishing line and fish hook to suit different fishing conditions as will be apparent to the skilled angler or fisherman.

It will also be appreciated that the terms "top" or "bottom" of the transverse passage have regard to the use of the sway bar as shown in FIGS 1, 2 and 3.

It will also be appreciated that bait 19 may also comprise dead fish, live fish, squid or any other form of natural live or dead bait for fish as well as the soft plastics material.